



BOOK SUMMARY:

THE PROCESS OF VENEZUELAN INTEGRATION IN PERU

El proceso de integración de las personas venezolanas en Perú

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Since 2016, over 4 million Venezuelans have fled the economic and political crisis crippling their country—a crisis so severe that a month's salary can't even buy a day's worth of food. Over 800,000 Venezuelans have reached Peru after an arduous journey and are trying to restart their lives despite limited resources and knowledge of how to navigate Peru's civil systems and cultural differences.

To help these Venezuelan refugees be successful in their new home, Lutheran World Relief is working to foster their integration into Peruvian society. As part of that effort, **we supported research from the Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya on how Venezuelans are integrating into Peru's health care system, schools, workforce, housing, communities and culture.** This is a summary of that research, which is detailed in the Spanish-language book, *El proceso de integración de las personas venezolanas en Perú*.

METHODOLOGY

The study used the qualitative methodology of semi-structured, in-depth interviews and focus groups. Thirty-seven Venezuelan migrants located in three regions of Peru (Piura, Arequipa and Lima) were interviewed at length. Additionally, nine in-depth interviews were conducted with local experts in the areas of employment, education and migration as well as with representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Two focus groups were conducted, one with Venezuelan migrants and one with Peruvians. The study was conducted September to December 2018.



FOUR DIMENSIONS OF INTEGRATION – KEY FINDINGS

1) STRUCTURAL

- **Legal status:** The Government of Peru quickly established various routes for Venezuelans to receive the legal status they need to temporarily work and live in the country. **Twenty-two percent now have such status, and 41% are going through the process** (as of 10 Nov 2018). This has also resulted in high levels of trust in Peruvian institutions by Venezuelans.
- **Employment:** As of October 2018, **80.3% of Venezuelan men and 76.6% of Venezuelan women who have the legal status to work—or who are in the process of receiving it—are working.** However, most are either self-employed or working in the informal sector under difficult conditions and with low wages.
- **Health care:** The **majority of Venezuelans in Peru have difficulty receiving health care** due to legal and institutional obstacles complicating their access.
- **Education:** **Many Venezuelans are not receiving support in navigating Peru's education system**, leading to a prevalence of misinformation and enrollment obstacles and delays. Documentation requirements and additional fees required by public schools further burden Venezuelans trying to enroll.

2) SOCIAL

- **Communities:** The **majority of Venezuelans arriving in Peru are settling in and around Lima**, but they are evenly spreading out into different sections of the metropolitan area. No one large Venezuelan neighborhood has taken root yet, despite reports that most Venezuelans predominantly interact with other Venezuelans.

- **Discrimination:** The stories many Venezuelans have of discriminatory experiences in Peru correlate with the negative results surveys have shown on Peruvian perceptions of Venezuelan migration. **Discriminatory landlords make it difficult for many Venezuelans to secure housing**, which is forcing overcrowding in the housing they do find. **Venezuelan women are disproportionately discriminated against, harassed and abused.**

3) CULTURAL

- The period of time since most Venezuelans arrived in Peru is relatively short, but already the researchers see **trends towards assimilation**, especially in regards to language and cultural norms, out of practicality.

4) IDENTITY

- **Most Venezuelans report a desire to maintain their identity** but recognize they are undergoing a slow, personal process of evolution as they get more used to the idea of living long-term in Peru.

MORE ABOUT OUR WORK

Lutheran World Relief and our local partners are committed to supporting Venezuelan refugees and the communities that host them. In addition to this research on their social integration, we are expanding the digital platform we created — **Ven Informado** — which serves as a one-stop shop for Venezuelans to find useful, verified information on immigration, laws, and life in Peru.

